



California State Parks

Quick Facts



Last updated 12/16/2004

Park People

- California State Parks is authorized approximately 2,400 permanent positions to administer, protect, operate and maintain the state park system. Staff perform the following functions:

Lifeguards	Resource protection/interpretation
Rangers	Planning, design & development
Maintenance	Administration & support
- In addition to the permanent positions, approximately 2,700 seasonal employees are hired annually. These employees supplement the permanent work force in functions such as maintenance, lifeguarding, interpretation and visitor services.

Lifeguards and Rangers

- In 2003, State Park Rangers and Lifeguards:
 - found over 1,200 lost persons and rescued more than 10,500.
 - provided medical aid to over 7,600 injured persons
 - issued over 18,000 citations
 - arrested 1,600 persons
- State Park Ranger and Lifeguard duties also include:
 - patrolling (with vehicles and boats, 63 motorcycles, 1 airplane, 18 fire trucks and 11 patrol dogs)
 - conducting interpretive programs
 - resource protection

Maintenance Staff

- State Park Maintenance workers are responsible for keeping all state park facilities safe and open for public use. More specifically, the skills they utilize are:

Road and trail maintenance	Water treatment
Plumbing	Housekeeping
Electrical	Litter and trash pickup
Carpentry	Landscape work
- The maintenance staff utilizes:

716 maintenance vehicles	37 boats
282 tractors	23 forklifts



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Volunteers and Cooperating Associations

- Nearly 11,000 volunteers contributed over 900,000 hours to the department in 2003. Volunteers staff visitor centers, maintain trails, serve as camp hosts, give interpretive programs, present special events and do much, much more to share their love of the parks with the visiting public.
- 80 cooperating associations with more than 24,000 members are actively supporting park units throughout the state. Cooperating associations help park staff operate visitor centers and undertake fund raising to further the interpretive and resource management programs in the parks they serve. Hundreds of special events and thousands of individual interpretive programs reaching hundreds of thousands of visitors would not be possible without their support.

Commissions

- The State Park and Recreation Commission has specific authorities and responsibilities defined in California law, including:
 - Approval of general plans for units of the State Park System
 - Classifying units of the System
 - Approval of concession agreements that: exceed \$500,000; are for more than 20 years; or that include the sale of alcoholic beverages..
 - Establishing general policies for the guidance of the Director of State Parks in the administration, protection and development of the System
 - Recommending to the Director a comprehensive recreation policy for the state
 - The Commission's nine members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- The California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission is separate from the Park and Recreation Commission, yet has similar responsibilities specifically for OHV park units:
 - Approve funding for minor capital outlay projects
 - Approve funding for OHV grants
 - General policy direction for the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
 - Act as a forum for public input
 - The Commission's seven members are appointed: three by the Governor, two by the Senate Rules Committee and two by the Speaker of the Assembly.